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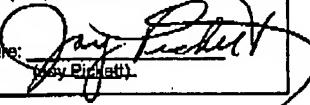
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office, facsimile no. (703) 872-9328, on the date shown below.

Dated: 8.8.2003

Signature: 

(Jay Pritchett)

Docket No.: 20459-00351-US
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Kent Stalhandske, et al.

Application No.: 10/088,894

Confirmation No.: 8950

Filed: July 16, 2002

Art Unit: 3641

For: **METHOD AND ARRANGEMENT FOR
LOADING ARTILLERY PIECES BY MEANS
OF FLICK RAMMING**

Examiner: S. Johnson

RESPONSE TO ELECTION OF SPECIES REQUIREMENT

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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AUG 11 2003

Dear Sir:

GROUP 3600

In response to the Election of Species Requirement dated July 15, 2003 (Paper No.10),
Applicant hereby provisionally elects the species covered by Species B, illustrated in Figures 3
and 4, with traverse, for the above-referenced patent application.

Species B (Figures 3-4) relates to an embodiment using pneumatic spring 7b and a feed
chain arrangement. Claims 21, 22, 24-31, 36 and 37 are submitted as reading on this species.

Claims 21-27, 36 and 37 are submitted as being generic, and therefore also read on the
provisionally elected species.

Applicant's provisional election is made without prejudice. As noted by the Examiner,
upon the allowance of a generic claim, Applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to
not more than two species in addition to the elected species, provided that all claims to each

Application No.: 10/604,532

Docket No.: 22171-00005-US

additional species are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.146.

Applicant respectfully traverse this election requirement, as U.S. Restriction and Election of Species practice under 35 U.S.C. § 121 is submitted as being improper for this application.

This application is a National Stage entry of a PCT application, and thus is governed by the "Unity of Convention" standard under the PCT and MPEP Rules for processing of National Stage entries.

Therefore, reconsideration of the election requirement is requested.

An action on the merits of all the claims and a Notice of Allowance thereof are respectfully requested.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 22-0185, under Order No. 22171-00005-US from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: Aug 8, 2003
10477_1

Respectfully submitted,

By Larry J. Hume
Larry J. Hume

Registration No.: 44,163
CONNOLLY BOVE LODGE & HUTZ LLP
1990 M Street, N.W., Suite 800
Washington, DC 20036-3425
(202) 331-7111
(202) 293-6229 (Fax)
Attorney for Applicant

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